

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-14 RSC-01

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R 291511Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2577

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 09616

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: SF, PFOR

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF SOUTH AFRICA FROM UN

REF: STATE 161371

SUMMARY: FCO OFFICER REPORTS THAT HMG HAS JUST TAKEN
GENERAL POLICY DECISION TO WORK TO AVOID EXCLUSION SOUTH
AFRICA FROM UN. MAIN EMPHASIS OF UK POLICY WILL BE TO
VOTE AGAINST UNCONSTITUTIONAL ACTIONS UNDER ALMOST ANY
CIRCUMSTANCES AND TO VOTE AGAINST EXCLUSION OR ABSTAIN
IN CONSTITUTIONALLY CORRECT ISSUES DEPENDING ON DEGREE
OF UK EXPOSURE INVOLVED. FCO UNDERSTANDS THAT LIKELIHOOD
OF UNFAVORABLE RULING BY GA PRESIDENT BOUTEFLEKA IS NOW
NOT SO STRONG. END SUMMARY

1. ON JULY 26 WE CALLED ON FCO ASSISTANT HEAD OF UN
DEPARTMENT SOLESBY TO DISCUSS REFTTEL. WHEN SHE MADE
APPOINTMENT WITH US SHE SAID HMG HAD JUST REACHED
DECISION ON GENERAL POLICY TOWARD SOUTH AFRICAN QUESTION
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IN 1974 UNGA.

2. WE OPENED CONVERSATION WITH DISCUSSION OF US ANALYSIS AND POLICY AS DESCRIBED REFTEL. SOLESBY SAID THAT UKUN HAS JUST REPORTED THAT BOUTEFLIKA MIGHT NOT RULE THAT INEVITABLE UNFAVORABLE VOTE ON SOUTH AFRICA CREDENTIALS HAS EFFECT THAT SOUTH AFRICA CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN GA. UK UNDERSTANDS THAT REASON FOR THIS POSSIBLE CHANGE OF HEART BY BOUTEFLIKA IS THAT HE RECOGNIZES THAT SUCH A RULING WOULD BE UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND HE WISHES TO ESTABLISH RECORD AS FIRM, CONSTITUTIONAL PRESIDENT.

3. THUS UK NOW THINKS THAT AFRICANS PROBABLY WILL INTRODUCE RESOLUTION IN GA CALLING ON SC TO EXPEL SOUTH AFRICA. THIS PROBABLY WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL AND THEN DECISION WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN HOW TO VOTE IN SC. IN EITHER CASE UK ESTIMATE IS THAT AFRICANS WILL PROCEED IN MOST SERIOUS WAY TO TRY TO EXPEL SA.

4. UK POSITIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A) ON A GA RESOLUTION PURPORTING TO EXPEL SA UK WILL VOTE "NO" ON CONSTITUTIONAL GROUNDS AS LONG AS UK IS IN "RESPECTABLE COMPANY," I.E. ABOUT 20 VOTES AGAINST RESOLUTION;

B) ON RESOLUTION TO CALL ON SECURITY COUNCIL TO EXPEL SA THE UK PROBABLY WOULD VOTE AGAINST WITH "SUBSTANTIAL COMPANY," I.E. CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN 20 VOTES. LACKING THIS UK WOULD ABSTAIN;

C) IN SC UK WOULD NOT VOTE FOR ARTICLE 5 SUSPENSION OR ARTICLE 6 SUSPENSION, BUT PROBABLY WOULD NOT USE VETO IN EITHER CASE.

5. UK MIGHT BE PREPARED TO LOBBY AGAINST EXPULSION IN WESTERN COUNTRIES, TO ASSURE "RESPECTABLE" OR "CONSIDERABLE" COMPANY, BUT DOES NOT FEEL THAT THERE WOULD BE MUCH USE IN LOBBYING AFRICANS. UK HAS SOME CONTACT WITH BOUTEFLIKA AND WILL CONSIDER URGING HIM TO BE MODERATE AND CONSTITUTIONAL.

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